

Let's Build That Library

(EDITORIAL)

Four years ago Camas' library was so crowded and desparately in need of new quarters that a campaign was waged for a new building. In a special election in December, 1934, a majority favored a bond issue, but not enough persons voted to make the election effective.

That was four years ago. Today the situation is much worse. The library has increased its number of volumes from 5,255 to 7,933, and the circulation of its books from 58,277 a year in 1934 to 65,057 in 1938. Yet today Camas has the same cramped, unsatisfactory quarters for one of its foremost institutions, one of the finest libraries in the Pacific northwest.

There is some doubt whether the people would approve bonds for a city hall-library building, and the present council is not inclined to float a bond issue without first submitting it to a vote. Consequently, the library may suffer continued postponement unless steps are taken to build a library now, and let the city hall wait until the taxpayers are convinced of the urgency of the need. The present city hall-library plans provide a separate library unit which could be built first, and the city hall added later.

Or, better yet, the ballot could carry two propositions, giving the voters an opportunity to vote whether they want a city hall-library or a library alone, so that in any event the latter would carry.

There is little doubt of the need and the people's willingness to support a bond issue for a library. The time to start the machinery in motion is NOW!